

# Round and about

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# ROUND AND ABOUT

## BERNE

The Federal Council announced that Switzerland would no longer use the tune of "God Save the Queen" for its national anthem. To be given a trial of three years, instead, is the "Cantique Suisse".

The Swiss have been complaining for several years that it is absurd they should share their national anthem with Great Britain. Every time it is played they become embarrassed when Englishmen rise stiffly to attention, wondering what honour has been bestowed upon them.

A study of the origins of "God Save the Queen" turned up the fact that it is not English at all — a fact that the Swiss are quick to point out. It was composed in the 17th century by the Italian musician Jean-Baptiste Lulli for Louis XIV of France, while the "Sun King" was suffering from a serious illness. It was then entitled "Dieu sauve notre roy".

The Federal Council, after consulting each canton and the choral societies throughout the country, chose the "Cantique Suisse", by Zwyssig and Widmer, over several other suggestions.

*Swiss Societies in Great Britain who would like a copy of the text and music of the Cantique Suisse may obtain it from the Swiss Embassy.*

## GENEVA

The Geneva Headquarters of the High Commissioner for Refugees is appealing to a number of non-governmental organisations to mark the centenary, on 10th October, of the birth of one of history's most versatile men Fridtjof Nansen.

Switzerland will commemorate Nansen's centenary with a 26-minute programme arranged by the *Télévision de la Suisse Romande*, in collaboration with UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, which will be made available throughout the Eurovision network.

How many men can boast of having been an explorer, a scientist, zoologist, oceanographer, meteorologist, historian, writer, poet, artist, statesman, and humanitarian?

In every one of these fields Nansen made a contribution.

As an *explorer*, Nansen was the first man to cross Greenland. In 1893, surmising that there was a drift across the polar basin, he decided to be frozen in — and travel with it. He drifted north until 15th November 1895, at which point his ship, "Fram", started drifting southwards. Nansen left the ship and travelled north with skis and dog sledges, reaching a record north of 86° 14' on 7th April 1896.

To ensure success in these expeditions, he started by cutting off his own line of retreat so that survival could only be made by going forward. He told students at St. Andrew's University, in Scotland, on the day of his inauguration as Lord Rector in 1926: "Do you want to know the secret of my success? It is to destroy my bridges behind me. To succeed or die."

As a *scientist* he brought back much useful information from his expeditions.

As a *zoologist* he contributed information on the central nervous system.

As an *oceanographer* he made investigations into depth, temperature, salinity and currents.

As a *meteorologist* his studies in the variations in

solar radiation have proved fundamental in long-range weather forecasting.

As a *historian*, although he never had time to carry his work further than the 16th century, his book, "In the Northern Mists", is the foundation of all research into the history of polar exploration.

As a *writer*, even in a scientific book such as "In the Northern Mists", Nansen proved himself a master, and a poet. As an *artist*, his books are full of lively and artistic drawings, and in later years he made first-rate lithographs. (He was once given advice by an artist friend, "Leave science alone. Be a painter, that's your gift.")

Crowning these diversified achievements, he played an enormous role as a *statesman* and *humanitarian*.

## ZURICH

Rumours of a large international dope ring operating in Switzerland have stirred the Zurich police into soliciting the aid of Interpol. The announcement was made this week after Swiss authorities suspected that the doping incidents at the recent World Cycling Championships in Berne and Zurich mask a large international traffic in drugs and pharmaceutical products. Supposedly behind this illegal trade are several medical men and so-called "doctors".

Interpol was called in after the chief medical officer for the World Cycling Championships made public a report stating that the East German cyclist, Lothar Appler, who was taken to a Berne hospital after collapsing during a race, suffered from an overdose of amphetamine — a pep drug. The two other East German competitors also abandoned the race, but the team manager emptied their canteens, preventing authorities from analyzing their contents.

An earlier incident happened in Zurich, during the track events. The Swiss rider, Fritz Gallati, collapsed at the end of a race from an overdose of self-administered dope.

When police inspected the dressing rooms at the Oerlikon velodrome in Zurich they discovered one runner in possession of 77 weckamine tablets.

An investigation of the use of drugs in competition cycling has shown that it is a common and widespread practice.

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